

**Make change on
Greg's statement**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
November 20-21, 2002**

The November meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, James Billings, Charles Edwards, Jr., Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Don Roby, and Kay Wagner were present. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Judy Jeffrey, Jan Friedel, Carol Greta, Ann McCarthy, Sandra Renegar, Susan Fischer, Jan Huss, Evelyn Anderson, Susan Anderson, Kathi Slaughter, John Hartwig, Dianne Chadwick, Beverlee Adams and Dwight Carlson, Division of Rehabilitation Education and Services. Also present were Bert Wagoner, Jr., Robin Madison and Dwayne Ferguson, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Joe Romano and Therese Kehoe, Legislative Caucus Staff, Troyce Fischer, School Administrators of Iowa, Terry Voy, Richard Moffitt, MIRENCO Corporation, Kathy Bolten, *Des Moines Register*, Todd Dorman, *Lee Newspapers*, Rod Boshart, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Pat Curtis, WHO Radio, Darwin Danielson, Radio Iowa, Chuck Schoffner, Associated Press, Keri Downs, Jon Ericson, Chris Green, Dave Darnell and Perry Johnston, Drake University, Carolyn L. Wanot and Larry Bartlett, University of Iowa, Don Hackmann and Jan Walker, Iowa State University, Darrel Lind, Charlotte Upah, Betty Westmeyer, Ella Mae Gogel, C. Vaughn, Loren Langford, Dean Meier, Beverly Hinders Trost, AEAs 2, 6, & 7, Hunter Mormon, Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved that the agenda for the November 20-21 State Board of Education meeting be approved. Mary Jean Montgomery seconded.

Public Comment

Bert Wagoner, Jr., Iowa Creationist Consulting Service, was available to follow-up the decisions of his earlier request.

Program Approval Recommendations for Administrator Preparation Institutions

Dr. Sandra Renegar, Administrative Consultant for Practitioner Preparation and Licensure reviewed the standards and procedures for the approval of practitioner preparation programs. She indicated the rules in Chapter 79 separate program approval

for administrator preparation from that for other practitioner preparation programs. All institutions seeking to offer administrator preparation programs must undergo review under these rules. Northwest Iowa Principal Leadership Academy is recommended with conditions.

Motion: It was moved by Kay Wagner and seconded by Sally Frudden to approve the recommendation made by the findings of the National Review Panel with the condition that the applicant submit a complete set of modules and receive a positive review.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously. Abstain: Mary Jean Montgomery

Dr. Renegar introduced Hunter Mormon, Director of the Education Policy Fellowship Program at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. Mormon provided an executive summary of the Report of the National Panel for Administration Preparation Program Review. He indicated that the Department of Education and National Panel have conducted a rigorous and open review of applications for administrator preparation program review. Guidelines based on state policy were issued, opportunities for public discussion and questions were provided, and professional development was conducted. He indicated that the following observations and recommendations have been suggested for the next stage of the review process:

1. Applicants should ground their programs on a well-developed conceptual framework.
2. Applicants should work from a thorough familiarity with the current literature.
3. Applications should make the links between the ISSL and the program of study explicit.
4. All the elements of the program should constitute a coherent, well-integrated, logically and internally consistent whole.
5. Strong efforts to integrate meaningful clinical experience in the program need to be made.
6. Both universities and schools must play an important role in the development and implementation of programs.
7. Evaluator Approval Training and the DDL must be well-integrated into the programs.
8. Courses on research, statistics, evaluation and assessment need to be reconceived so as to support school-based decision-making.
9. Instructional staff/faculty need to be adequate (in number and time available to handle the demands of the program and need to function in a coherent manner.)
10. An attitude of inquiry should characterize the development and delivery of the programs.
11. The state should provide support, technical assistance, and monitoring to ensure quality in program development and delivery over time.

Mr. Mormon indicated that a panel of four national experts in administrator preparation and professional development have worked with staff of the Iowa Department of Education for 11 months to design the review process, acquaint prospective applicants with the process, and conduct the first stage of the review. He felt that the Department of

Education was requiring substantial change among the programs of administrator preparation. The implementation process will be as important as the planning phase. Mormon said the Panel encouraged the state to communicate systematically with the approved programs about their implementation.

Reorganization Plan for AEAs 2, 6, and 7

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education indicated that AEAs 2, 6, and 7 were the second reorganization of AEAs since the 2001 General Assembly had passed legislation allowing them to reorganize. Jeffrey said that the plan had been submitted to the Department and it included all components required by the department and the Iowa Code. A feasibility study was also available in the department. She introduced Dean Meier, Administrator of Northern Trails AEA 2 and several other representatives of the three AEAs were in attendance.

Dean Meier presented an overview of the AEA reorganization process. He stated that the 2001 Iowa legislature passed legislation, which allowed AEAs to voluntarily reorganize. Meier indicated the proposed plan had been submitted to the department, which included an executive summary and a very detailed appendix. He reported it was clear through the documentation of the board minutes and public hearings that the stakeholders support the reorganization.

Meier reported that a feasibility study had been conducted by Ghan Consulting, Inc. to outline the options for a merger between AEAs 2, 6, and 7. The feasibility study provided rationale and criteria by which to substantiate the need for such a reorganization.

Administrator Meier indicated that they believe the Voluntary Reorganization Plan and Appendix satisfy all requirements in Chapter 273 of the Code of Iowa and additional information show a new organization will better meet the needs of schools and children within the area. Therefore, this is a request for State Board approval of the Voluntary Reorganization Plan to be effective July 1, 2003.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the reorganization plan for AEAs 2, 6, and 7 be approved.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Billings, Fitzpatrick, McClain, Montgomery, Roby, Wagner, and Vincent. Abstain: Frudden

Educational Equity Recognition Awards

State Board of Education members presented Education Equity Recognition Awards to Columbus Community School District, Dubuque Community School District, Grant Wood Area Education Agency, Northeast Iowa Community College, and Sioux Center Community School District. This is the 18th year for the award recognizing educators'

initiatives to make their schools more inclusive, welcoming and supportive learning environments for students from diverse backgrounds.

Director Report

Director Stilwill gave a brief report on the following topics:

- Attended No Child Left Behind Regional Meeting in Chicago with other staff members and Board member Sally Frudden.
- Governor Vilsack will be creating a Council on Early Childhood
- Invitation to participate with a group sponsored by the National Governor's Association and the Council of State Legislators on structuring high schools.
- Announced that Carol Greta will be serving as the Department liaison to the athletic associations. She will be filling the vacancy of Dwight Carlson who was present. Director Stilwill indicated that Carlson's retirement was effective November 27 and thanked him for his dedication to the Department and citizens of Iowa. An announcement of the new Administrator of Division of Rehabilitation Education and Services would be released in next two days.

Board Reports

Greg McClain reported he had attended the Community College Subcommittee Meeting on Recruitment, Retention and Graduation of Women and Minorities and a recommendation had been drafted and was discussed at the Community College Council meeting. He would let Don Roby report on that discussion. He also indicated the Committee looking at the achievement gap of African/American students had made their final recommendations to the Governor. The results were sent to Director Stilwill and Ruth White and they were asked to put together an action plan. McClain reported he had volunteered to assist in putting that information together.

McClain attended a No Child Left Behind meeting in Area 7 that was well attended and felt Judy Jeffrey did a great job explaining the legislation and answering questions. He reported that Director Stilwill, Kay Wagner and he had met with John Deere officials in Moline to begin a dialogue on how Deere, the Department and the State Board could work together to further education in Iowa. Wagner indicated the Deere Foundation was very interested and sincere in education issues and had available resources. She felt the involvement that Deere Foundation had with education was extensive.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick – No report

Don Roby reported on the Community College Council meeting and indicated the faculty development plan rules on the consent agenda had been approved by the Council. He stated he, Mary Jean Montgomery, and Greg McClain, Department staff and stakeholders met in October and would meet tomorrow on the Strategic Plan for Community Colleges. If the plan is agreed upon, it will then be sent to community college trustees for

information purposes and it would be brought back to the Community College Council and State Board in January.

Sally Frudden attended the following meetings:

- AEA 2 superintendent's meeting- all districts had an enrollment drop.
- Guest at NIACC joint dinner meeting with the trustees and the trustees of the NIACC foundation-Mike Morrison was the speaker noting a legislative action report outlining financial status of declining dollars.
- Reported on Charles City Annual Report. These reports are required by the Code of Iowa-encouraged Board members to look for their local reports.
- AEA/Design Team meeting-business included an agreement for Centers of Excellence concept will come from existing players. Purpose is to provide all excellence in equity through building the capacity in our AEA system. Design team members will take this work out to the stakeholders for input and the stakeholders will be asked to identify one priority area. The name, Centers for Excellence, will be changed-ideas are being discussed. This work will be concluded in March.
- Committee to Review Requests for Oral Arguments met via telephone and request was denied.
- Attended regional meeting on No Child Left Behind held in Chicago. The U.S. Department of Education was holding forums across the country to explain the details of this legislation. A well-informed cadre of educators from the Department and Iowa attended this meeting as well. Ted and Judy will be presenting on this topic later in the agenda. Frudden read from the desk reference on NCLB regarding some of the mandates required by this legislation. She felt a strenuous agenda would be in order to meet all of these criteria.

Charles Edwards – No report.

Kay Wagner reported she had attended the November Area 9 superintendent's meeting. The agenda was on the upcoming legislative session and school finance.

Jim Billings indicated he had attended the Area 3 superintendent's meeting. They had given enrollment reports and only one school had increasing enrollment. The main concern also was finance and what is going to happen in Iowa. They had concerns about the No Child Left Behind mandates and the 2.0 grade point average in athletics. Billings reported many changes had occurred in superintendent positions in this area.

Mary Jean Montgomery attended the following meetings and reported what the Board might be able to anticipate from these groups in the future:

- Two meetings on Iowa Partnership-the subgroup. These strategy groups are coming up with recommendations that focus on state policy that will be approved by the large group and then to the State Board. Information should be available for legislation.

- Met with Don Roby and Greg McClain with the subcommittee on gender and equity. Compliments to this extraordinary committee. She indicated a fifth goal will be added to the four other standing goals and brought to the Board in January.
- Spoke at the Northwestern Iowa TAG Conference and also attended a workshop presented by Laurie Phelan on Reinvention of the High School. She reported that the TAG students are frustrated in their high schools and with the programs.
- Attended first Iowa Public Television meeting as well as an orientation meeting.

Gene Vincent congratulated, on behalf of the Board, Director Stilwill as being appointed to the Chair of the Council of Chief State School Officers and Judy Jeffrey as Chair of the Vice-Chairs of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Vincent also reported he had represented the Board at the Educators Recognition Ceremony at Iowa State University. The Ted Davidson award from Iowa Association of School Boards was presented and the Iowa Teacher of the Year was recognized.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the September 12-13, 2002 State Board meeting were approved.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 68, pilot charter schools as proposed was approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 17, open enrollment was approved to be adopted and filed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 21, community colleges was approved to be adopted and filed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 120, early access Integrated System of Early Intervention Services was approved to be adopted and filed.

Amendment to Program Approval Rules for Teacher Intern Preparation Programs

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 77, standards for teacher intern preparation programs was approved to be adopted and filed.

Religious Groups Exempted from School Standards

The exemption renewal requests for four religious groups as proposed were approved.

Appeal Decision

The following appeal decision was approved:

In re Kyle Turner. The decision affirms the June 20, 2002 decision of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Polk Community School District that denied Kyle Turner's open enrollment application.

Appeal Decisions

Susan Anderson, administrative law judge, reviewed for the Board the proposed appeal decision In re Jason Chaffin. Anderson indicated that the focus of the appeal was the appellants were seeking reversal of a decision of the Board of Directors of the District that declared their son, Jason Chaffin, ineligible under the District's good conduct policy to participate in extracurricular activities for three months, including two football games during the 2002 football season. She reported that the Logan-Magnolia Community School District student handbook language and the Board's good conduct regulation may not be cast in exactly the same language, but both documents state that a student may not choose when his penalty starts. That decision is left up to the administrators, subject to review by the Logan-Magnolia Board. The appellants were unable to show that the Board's decision was unreasonable.

Motion: Sally Frudden moved and Kay Wagner seconded that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Logan-Magnolia Community School District, made on June 17, 2002, that declared Jason Chaffin ineligible under the District's good conduct policy to participate in extracurricular activities for three months, including two football games during the 2002 football season, be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Law Judge, Susan Anderson, reviewed the appeal decision In re John Clausen. She indicated that the appellant is seeking reversal of the Board of Directors of the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District denying the open enrollment application of her son for the 2002-2003 school year. The denial was on the basis that the application was filed late without good cause. Anderson explained that the District had filed a Notice of Appeal of the proposed decision reversing the District.

Motion: It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick that the State Board direct a rehearing before the Director's designee to give the parent an opportunity to show actual prejudice from the Charter Oak-Ute Community School Board's delay in acting on the open enrollment application.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

In appeal decision, In re Closing of Montour Elementary Building, Susan Anderson, administrative law judge reported that the appellants were seeking reversal of the decision of the Board of Directors of the South Tama County Community School District to close its Montour elementary building located in Montour, Iowa. She indicated that the focus of this appeal was the examination of the process followed by the South Tama

County Board in making its decision to close its Montour elementary attendance center. The District contends that it substantially complied with the Barker guidelines in making its decision. It was concluded that the Board of the South Tama County Community School District substantially complied with the *Barker* guidelines in making its decision.

Motion: It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Jim Billings that the decision of the Board of Directors of the South Tama County Community School District made on February 18, 2002 be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Carol Greta, administrative law judge, reviewed the proposed decision in the matter of In re Seth Leaton. She indicated the appellant seeks reversal of the decision of the Clear Creek-Amana Board to deny the open enrollment application that had been filed on behalf of her son. Greta told the State Board that at the hearing it became clear that the Clear Creek-Amana board simply misunderstood the open enrollment law. A representative of the District Board testified that the board would gladly accept appellant's son; they just had not understood that they could do so.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Don Roby that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Clear Creek-Amana Community School District made on August 15, 2002 be reversed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Department of Education's Adult Basic Education Program Performance Report for Program Year 2002.

John Hartwig, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education informed the Board about the enrollment trends and characteristics of Iowa's community college-based adult basic education program for Program Year 2002.

Quality Teaching—Career Path Pilot and Team-based Variable Pay

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator and Dianne Chadwick, Administrative Consultant, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education reviewed the pilot program for team-based variable pay for student achievement that was established by the 2001 Iowa legislature. The program focuses on financial rewards to individual attendance centers for improvement in student achievement. The 2002 General Assembly directed the Department to develop recommendations for a pilot program to study the implementation of Career II and Advanced status. Jeffrey indicated that a task force had been selected and had completed only preliminary concepts for the recommendations at this time. Chadwick explained the recommendations are to include, at a minimum, "proposals for grant criteria, measures by which a school district may identify the characteristics that define a career II and advanced level teacher, conditions under which a teacher may advance to the career II and advanced levels including the performance evaluation

required to advance to the next career level, maximum use of the career and advanced teacher's skills and knowledge to benefit the school district and its students, training necessary for adjudicators for purposes of performance reviews for advancement, and a review process.

Judy Jeffrey said that Dr. Charlotte Danielson is serving as the consultant to the project. Dr. Danielson's expertise includes consulting with other states on such matters as mentoring/induction, teacher evaluation, teacher portfolios, and assessment. The recommendations include continuing the pilot for two additional years and increasing technical assistance to districts.

Academic Standards for Athletic Eligibility

President Gene Vincent indicated there were three requests to speak to the Board on this matter.

Jon Ericson of Des Moines spoke in favor of adoption of the 2.0 grade point average to be able to participate in athletics.

Chris Green of Des Moines spoke in favor of raising the minimum standard of academic performance for student athletes and also to other extracurricular activities.

Keri Downs of Newton spoke in support of raising the standard of academic performance of students.

Vincent asked if there were any other public comments to be heard at this time. There were none.

Jim Billings stated he did not have a problem with the recommendation proposed. He indicated the four superintendents that had presented to the Board at the last meeting said collectively they felt they should make the choice on what their academic standard should be. Billings felt they were the ones closest to the issue and wanted to deal with the decision themselves. He said that information set before the Board by far shows that we should leave the rule the way it is.

Mary Jean Montgomery indicated she was opposed to the Department recommendation. She stated three reasons: 1) We need to raise the bar--the Board has championed student achievement. It is our top priority, 2) We need a standard--a level playing field, 3) The Board must have leadership. She felt this should not be that big an issue. We have large issues confronting us in this state; reducing the gap, educational leadership, sustaining teacher quality, etc. Leadership is about taking people where they cannot go without that leadership. Montgomery felt the Board needed to raise the standard and a standard is needed.

Charles Edwards reported that he was opposed to the recommendation. He indicated that if the Board would not vote to raise the bar—he didn't know how they could believe in

the Board's mission statement and be an advocate for education in Iowa. He felt the recommendation was weak and did not speak to leadership. Edwards stated we need to be concerned about raising performance for all students not just athletes. The Board needs to send a strong leadership message. The locals could decide, but that is not working and a minimum standard has to be set. The standard now is embarrassing. Edwards stated the Board has to set the bar higher.

Kay Wagner stated that she was pleased with the recommendation. She felt the Board's emphasis was to close the achievement gap. Wagner said that if she felt that raising the bar would be an immediate behavior modification tool that we could use to do it, she would recommend a four point or a five point.

Wagner said that she has heard from more superintendents and parents who are trying and not having success with their children, and from coaches that knew students did not have support—no tradition of education being important. She felt if those parents could have that student in school and practicing in activities, then there was a far better chance to close the achievement gap. She felt that the Board should not place the emphasis on the student playing the game and getting the cheers, we needed to look at the whole student body and those we are shutting off from that opportunity. She stated she did have confidence in those at the local level, even though she did not see this as local control but rather as serving the student. Wagner felt the resolution is appropriate and that we want students passing their courses and to go beyond that. She felt that the Board's emphasis on closing the achievement gap will continue to do that.

Greg McClain indicated his goal has been for students to excel. Raising the bar is raising the level of expectation for everybody not just athletes. This kind of debate and emotion over a 2.0 creates a concern for how the Board will handle the real stuff; NCLB, graduation requirements, etc. Athletes and 2.0 is not the real issue, these are just the words that we have to use to address the statutory authority in the Code. The fact that it is in the Code identifies the leadership responsibility for the Board to set that standard.

McClain had a concern for his responsibility to the Board as a leader in the strategic plan subcommittee that dealt with excellence, high standards, and high expectations. He felt the point here is high expectations, high standards—no excuses for a lower standard. He felt the Board needed to lead. Mr. McClain then shared with the Board a few of the letters and comments he had received from persons in the state regarding this issue.

In summary, Mr. McClain felt this is not a local control issue. It has been documented in case law that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege not a right. He felt the Board had the authority to set the minimum standard. He stated that if the Board chooses not to exercise the authority because they feel that local control is best, then we should take this authority out of the Code and let the school districts do whatever they want. McClain felt if the Board does this, then a State Board and Department of Education is not needed. He stated that his bottom line is high expectations, high standards, high academic achievement with support. McClain stated that he was

disappointed in the recommendation and felt it did not show good leadership. He felt the position was weak.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick commented that individual student's ability and therefore, their opportunity to achieve can best be addressed by the educators closest to them in collaboration with their parents. She felt that whether that is labeled "local control" or not, pedagogically that is where the greatest incentive for achievement comes. There have been examples from the community and Board member's sharing of personal experiences that those results were accomplished because of the impact of parents and expectations from individual schools. Fitzpatrick indicated she would support the recommendation and that local boards of education should review their own policies and determine if a higher level of achievement is appropriate for them. She felt that the success of Iowa schools over the years has revolved greatly around the decisions that those people have made and she trusted them to follow in this case.

Sally Frudden stated she had read the recommendation and would like to hear Director Stilwill address what he had in mind and what is outlined in the recommendation.

Director Stilwill felt that the recommendation was written in such a way that it stands on its own. He stated the recommendation was to challenge local boards to take a look and revisit their policy and give them something concrete to react to—it was a higher standard than currently existed.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Kay Wagner seconded that the resolution be adopted as proposed.

Vote: Aye – Billings, Fitzpatrick, Roby, Wagner, Frudden, Vincent. Nay – Edwards, McClain, Montgomery.

McClain indicated for the record, that he had served on the State Board for 9 years. He felt it was the second time the Board had made a very bad decision that was not in the best interest of Iowa education. He stated that this was the second time that he had gone on record to say that this is a "sad day for education." He stated that the Board is a leader in education and the Board did not demonstrate that leadership. He felt the Board had failed Iowa education today.

Charles Edwards commented that he would have to decide personally how to deal with this decision. He congratulated Mr. McClain for taking a high profile on this issue.

Don Roby stated that he wanted to congratulate Board members voting for this motion that sends a message in this state that we trust the people that are making the decisions at the local level. He felt that was the primary reason for making the motion, therefore, he felt it was a good day in education.

Policy Recommendations Related to Reducing Achievement Disparities

Administrator Judy Jeffrey, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education explained this agenda item was developed at the State Board's request to prepare a side-by-side report detailing the differences and similarities that exist between the previously proposed inclusive school rules and current federal and state law/rule. Jim Billings indicated he felt the bottom line for No Child Left Behind was that it would be good for students. Greg McClain said the response at the NCLB meetings he had attended was very positive. Mary Jean Montgomery had concerns about the inclusive schools issue being overlooked because of the federal regulations. Ted told the Board that there are two similar sets of operating rules.

Motion: It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Sally Frudden that the Department prepare rules for notice related to reducing achievement disparities.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Unsafe School Choice Option

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator and Ann McCarthy, Policy Consultant reviewed the rules for the unsafe school choice option. Jeffrey indicated that the new federal legislation, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires each state to establish and implement a statewide policy ensuring that students attending a persistently dangerous public school or students who become victims of a violent criminal offense be allowed to attend a safe public school. NCLB stipulates that a school building may be considered unsafe as a whole entity and allows public school choice for an individual student victim. To maintain U.S. Department of Education compliance with NCLB, the State Board must adopt a policy that covers both sets of circumstances. The policy must take effect no later than July 1, 2003.

She indicated that the proposed rule states that in order for a whole school to receive the designation of persistently dangerous, the building must have three consecutive years of violence related suspensions and expulsions, violations of the federal Gun Free Schools Act and identification of students who exercise the individual choice options due to being a victim of a violent crime. The proposed rule states that identified districts are required to have approved remedial plans in place and must clearly demonstrate improvement before the designation of persistently dangerous can be removed.

Jeffrey reported that the implementation of this federal requirement involves significant data collection and reporting by districts and, then, by the Iowa Department of Education. The final federal regulations are pending, yet states are expected to take this first step towards developing a statewide policy as required under NCLB. Ann McCarthy indicated that Iowa is matching very well what other states are doing.

Motion: Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved that the Notice of Intended Action to adopt new Chapter 11, "Unsafe School Choice Option", Iowa Administrative Code be approved. It was seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

2003 Legislative Advocacy

Director Stilwill introduced the legislative advocacy topic. The first topic offers effective advocacy strategies and discusses the mechanics of a legislative reception and the second portion outlines the proposed 2003 legislative agenda. Some of the long-term relationship building strategies considered were:

1. Invite legislators to visit pre-k programs, schools, and community colleges.
2. Attend legislative forums.
3. Invite legislators to meet one-on-one.
4. Send legislators important information.
5. Host a legislative reception.
6. Contact legislators at key points in the session.

In discussing the goals of the reception the Board agreed to:

1. Meet the new legislators and reconnect with returning legislators inviting all legislators.
2. Establish opportunities for voluntary follow-up contact.
3. Increase the profile of the State Board and its mission.

The Board then discussed and agreed to follow-up the reception with a discussion on whether the State Board met the goals.

The second topic of discussion was the proposed 2003 legislative agenda. The suggested priorities are listed below:

- The State Board seeks legislation to support the implementation of No Child Left Behind.
- The State Board of Education will implement recommendations to replace the 1972 Desegregation Guidelines.
- The State Board endorses continuance of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program.
- The State Board recommends that state foundation funding for K-12 reflect support for the increasing expectation of higher student achievement and the corresponding demands placed upon students, teachers, administrators and school boards.
- The State Board recommends increased funding for Iowa's community colleges.
- The State Board endorses authorizing the community college boards of trustees to raise additional operating funds in their local districts.
- The State Board endorses federal, state and local efforts emphasizing the importance of closing the achievement gap.
- The State Board renews its advocacy for early childhood.
- The State Board endorses establishing an Iowa Virtual Academy to broaden educational opportunities for Iowa high school students.
- The State Board advocates for additional access to advanced high school and vocational courses offered by regional academies.

- The State Board proposes incentives to maximize dollars for instruction in smaller school districts.

A Department statutory clean-up bill will also be part of the legislative package.

The proposed legislative agenda was agreed upon and a brochure to reflect the Board's agenda will be prepared.

Strengthening Rural Education

Dr. Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services explained the intent of this agenda item was to discuss the department's legislative package regarding rural schools. Several initiatives are proposed that will increase student opportunities and encourage efficiencies. Regional academies and incentive funding to share administrative and support services will also be considered. Tack indicated that the proposal included expanding current sharing incentives in the following areas:

- Superintendents
- Business Functions
- Transportation
- Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds
- Human Resources
- Others

He also reviewed the regional academies and their funding. Tack shared data regarding the sharing incentives and regional academies.

Bus Emissions Education Program

Terry Voy, School Transportation Consultant and Richard Moffit, MIRENCO Corporation presented this new program. Voy introduced the partner representatives of the program: Department of Natural Resources, School Administrators of Iowa, and Iowa Pupil Transportation Association.

Terry Voy explained the Bus Emissions Education Program (BEEP). He said the school transportation industry and diesel-powered school buses have been targeted as emitting exhaust emission levels that could be hazardous to the health of children. At this time, only a handful of school buses have been tested nationally producing limited data on which recent health hazard studies have been based. The BEEP project is the first of its kind in the United States that involves an entire state's fleet of school buses from which test data will be derived. BEEP is a 5-year project that will involve twice-annual emissions testing of Iowa school buses to be conducted in conjunction with the Department's school bus inspection program. Preliminary test data taken from the first round of testing involving 4500 Iowa diesel-powered buses has been enlightening and extremely complementary to Iowa's ongoing school bus maintenance programs.

Richard Moffitt of the MIRENCO Corporation indicated the BEEP program has captured the attention of many national groups and organizations including the producers of the “American Environmental Review,” a made-for-public-television segment featuring worthy environmental impact projects from around the nation. He showed the 8-minute video segment about BEEP scheduled for distribution to hundreds of public television stations this fall. Moffitt said that their goal is to make Iowa’s bus fleet the cleanest in the nation, and in turn, improve emissions and reduce health risks to the children.

Vincent asked if any Iowa districts were using soy diesel and Moffitt indicated that three districts were using soy diesel at this time, however, most were returning to a blended fuel because of the viscosity of the soy fuel. McClain asked about the source of the data being collected—was it required by the government or was it voluntary. Moffitt reported that it was a totally voluntary program and the data did not have to be reported to the Environmental Protection Agency. Montgomery asked about school districts with decreasing budgets and the age of bus fleets—this program would be even more valuable. The average age of a fleet diesel bus in Iowa is 9 years old.

Sally Frudden felt the Board needed to recognize exemplary work and suggested that the MIRENCO Corporation in association with their partners is exemplary. She suggested that a letter of recognition and support for the work be awarded to this group. Frudden thanked the participants for the excellent work being done.

Rules: Student Member on State Board of Education

Carol Greta, Legal Consultant, indicated that the legislature added a nonvoting student member to the State Board, to be appointed by the Governor. These rules address such issues as qualifications, the selection process, and expectations of the nonvoting student member. The legislative bill creating these rules was not a Department bill. Greta indicated she had contacted other states that currently had a student member as part of their board, some voting and some nonvoting. Twenty states already have a student member. The states were very generous in sharing their experiences, their rules, their regulations. In these conversations she reported there was not one negative word on having a student member serve as part of the Board.

She reported that some of the statute qualifications required for the student member were to set the term the same as a Board member, May 1 to April 30, however, the student term is only one year long. The student must be a 10th or 11th grader when appointed and the appointment is to be made by the Governor. The student must be enrolled in a public school district and must be so enrolled for at least one year prior to selection. The statute states that the student must demonstrate academic excellence. The proposed rules indicate that this statute has been translated to a 3.0 grade point average as Greg McClain had noted. The B average was required for legislative pages to apply for positions to the Iowa House or Senate so this would be consistent with those requirements. The student is required to demonstrate participation in extracurricular and community activities and to indicate an interest in serving as a student member of the State Board. The statute also requires that the parent or guardian sign a consent form and that the school district of

enrollment also consent to the student participation. The student is not allowed to vote. As a minor, the student's participation in the meeting requires the supervision of a parent or guardian unless the parent/guardian waives that requirement in writing. The student receives the same per diem. The application will require three letters of reference, one from a teacher, one from a community member, and one from a person at large. Certain requirements will also apply for the number of student applicants that may apply according to the size of the district.

The initial screening committee will be appointed by the Director of the Department. The committee reviewing the final 2 to 5 applications will be selected by the President of the Board. The finalists will be sent to the Governor for final selection of the student member.

Jim Billings had a concern about the student not being able to vote in these rules. Greta indicated this was in the statute. Kay Wagner reported she liked the recommendations and asked whether or not there was an interest in the general education community yet. Sally Frudden suggested that a high school student coming into this environment should be offered an orientation session and also mentoring possibilities. Frudden felt these factors would help the success of the program. Greg McClain asked about the purpose for this student. Ann McCarthy, legislative liaison, responded that the conversation when the bill was passed was that it would give the Board an opportunity to interact with students and their perspective of education issues. McCarthy also reported that the legislative discussion addressed the fact that a student member having only a one-year term, would not have the depth of knowledge and background to be able to vote on a majority of the issues the Board would have on their agenda.

Motion: Kay Wagner moved and Sally Frudden seconded that the notice and emergency adoption of rules 281.1, Student Member on State Board of Education be approved.

Vote: Aye – Billings, Fitzpatrick, Montgomery, Roby, Wagner, Frudden, Vincent. Nay – McClain.

Status Report on K-12 Funding System

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services, reviewed the school district funding in Iowa and discussed various issues associated with the current funding plan. He discussed the basics of the school foundation aid formula and the funding components that make up the total budgets. Adequate and equitable funding continue to be issues that will be brought to the Board for future discussion.

Annual Condition of Education Report

Director Ted Stilwill reviewed the highlights from the 13th Annual Condition of Education Report in Iowa. He indicated the 2002 report included information on Iowa's education system from prekindergarten through high school. The report includes a

preface that provides a contextual setting for education as well as a vast amount of information on education in the state. The report includes information on enrollments, programs, student performance, staff and finance. The report serves as a resource document for educators, legislators and citizens seeking information on Iowa's education system.

He reported that the Board would have a lengthy discussion in January on the Condition of Education information. Stilwill said that President Vincent and he would be presenting the Condition of Education information to the Iowa Association of School Board's Conference following this meeting.

Director Stilwill handed out the proposed January agenda topics.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Gene Vincent
President

Ted Stilwill
Director and Executive Officer

